

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-32 (previously canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user interface for an electronic device having a housing that includes a display, the method comprising:

providing an input element on the housing wherein the input element is separate from the display;

displaying information in a foreground of the display;

displaying a control image in a background of the display, the control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device when the input element is activated; and

positioning the control image in the background of the display proximate the input element to associate ~~asseeiating~~ the control image with the input element so that activation of the input element initiates performance of the task indicated by the control image.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 further comprising:

providing a plurality of input elements on the housing separate from the display;

displaying a plurality of control images in the background of the display; and

positioning each of the control images in the background of the display proximate to a separate one of the input elements to associate ~~asseeiating~~ each of the control images with a different one of the plurality of input elements.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 further comprising:

defining a plurality of regions within the background of the display, wherein each defined region is positioned proximate to a separate one of the input elements; and

positioning each of the control images within one of the defined regions.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein each of the input elements comprise a button positioned on the housing.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting control signals to an electronic device, the electronic device having a housing and a graphical user interface that includes a display, the method comprising:

providing an input element on the housing ~~wherein the input element is separate from the display, wherein the input element is one of a joystick, a rocker switch, a rotary dial, or a slide bar, and wherein the input element provides for movement in at least two directions;~~

generating an information screen;

generating a control screen having ~~at least one~~ a plurality of control images, ~~the each~~ control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device ~~when the input element is activated;~~

associating each of the control images with a different directional movement of the input element so that ~~activation~~ movement of the input element initiates performance of ~~the a~~ task indicated by the associated control image;

combining the information screen and the control screen into a composite screen such that the information screen and the control screen appear in an overlapping fashion; and

displaying the composite screen in the display.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the information screen appears in front of the control screen.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the control screen appears in front of the information screen.

47. (Canceled)
48. (Canceled)
49. (Canceled)
50. (Canceled)
51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47 ~~wherein each of the input elements comprise a button positioned on the housing;~~ 43 further comprising:
loading a character set within the graphical user interface of the electronic device,
the character set including a plurality of individual characters;
dividing the character set into character subsets;
representing each of the character subsets as a separate control image in the
control screen;
receiving a directional movement from the input element representing a selection
of one of the character subsets;
narrowing a range of the individual characters within the character set to the
selected character subset; and
repeating the dividing, representing, receiving, and narrowing operations until a
selection of one of the individual characters is made.
52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.
53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch, ~~input element is a joystick, a rocker switch, a rotary dial, or a slide bar, and wherein the input element provides for movement in at least two directions, the method further comprising:~~
~~displaying a plurality of control images in the control screen; and~~
~~associating each of the control images with a different directional movement of~~
~~the input element.~~
54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~53~~ 43 wherein the act of associating each of the control images with a different directional movement of the input element includes:
defining a plurality of regions within the control screen, each of the regions corresponding to ~~one of the~~ a different directional movements of the input element; and
positioning each of the control images within one of the defined regions.

55. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for inputting control signals to an electronic device, the electronic device having a housing, a display and at least one input element separate from the display, the computer process comprising:

generating an information screen;

generating a control screen having at least one control image, the control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device when the input element is activated;

positioning the control image in the control screen proximate the input element to
associate ~~asseeiating~~ the control image with the input element so that activation of the input element initiates performance of the task indicated by the control image;

combining the information screen and the control screen into a composite screen such that the information screen and the control screen appear in overlapping fashion; and

displaying the composite screen on the entire display.

56. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the computer process further comprises receiving an activation signal from the input element.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 56 wherein the computer process further comprises performing the task indicated by the control image associated with the input element after the activation signal is received.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the information screen appears in front of the control screen.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the electronic device includes a plurality of input elements separate from the display, the computer process further comprising:

displaying a plurality of control images in the control screen; and

positioning each of the control images in the control screen proximate to a
separate one of the input elements to associate ~~asseeiating~~ each of the control images with a different one of the ~~plurality of~~ input elements.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 60 wherein the computer process further comprises:

defining a plurality of regions within the control screen, wherein each defined region is positioned proximate to a separate one of the input elements; and
positioning each of the control images within one of the defined regions.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~62~~ 60 wherein the computer process further comprises:

loading a character set, the character set including a plurality of individual characters;

dividing the character set into character subsets;

representing each of the character subsets as a separate control image in the control screen;

receiving an activation signal from one of the input elements representing a selection of one of the character subsets;

narrowing a range of the individual characters within the character set to the selected character subset; and

repeating the dividing, representing, receiving, and narrowing operations until a selection of one of the individual characters is made.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 63 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.